



# CITY OF READING, PENNSYLVANIA

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **MAYOR MCMAHON ANNOUNCES BLIGHTED PROPERTY AGREEMENT WITH READING REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

READING, PA -- Mayor Thomas McMahon announced today that an agreement has been reached between the City's Blighted Property Review Committee and the Reading Redevelopment Authority for the acquisition of properties within the City of Reading that are determined to be blighted in accordance within the provisions of the Commonwealth's Urban Redevelopment Law of 1945 as amended.

The agreement will allow the use of Federal Community Development Block Grants and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to acquire and demolish properties in the City that have been designated as blighted. The properties will then be available for redevelopment or disposal in accordance with the City's Comprehensive Plan. The fiscal year 2010 budget for acquisition and demolition is \$252,000. This will allow the removal of at least ten blighted properties during the current year.

Addressing abandoned, vacant and deteriorated properties in the City of Reading will be a high priority when the structures pose a hazard to residents or a detriment to redevelopment efforts. "This program will be a multi-year effort designed to impress upon negligent property owners that dangerous and derelict structures will no longer be tolerated in the City of Reading," said McMahon.

Since its inception in 2008, the Blighted Review Committee has certified ten properties as blighted, issued contracts for the demolition of three properties, and entered into successful rehabilitation agreements for two additional properties. The committee is currently considering a list of 55 properties as potential blight designees for 2010. A recent study identified over 1,000 vacant structures in Reading. Properties that are abandoned or vacant and in a deteriorated condition should be reported to Codes Enforcement through the City of Reading Call Center at 877-727-3234.

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